

Testing has already produced some encouraging results



The 2015 drivers; James Cole (left) and Mat Jackson (right)



New Mountune-built EcoBoost engine is performing well!



MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

# ENFORCED BREAK

Sadly the Motorbase Focuses will miss the first rounds of the BTCC, but the team is using the time wisely to perfect the car's performance...



Firstly, it's with huge amounts of regret that we have to report, as noted by our absence from the first two rounds at Brands Hatch and Donington, that we are having to take a mini sabbatical and sit out the first half of the 2015 BTCC season. We won't bore you with all the details, nor will we start the finger-pointing game, but let's just say that motorsport is an expensive pastime, and the BTCC is no exception. And we're a proud bunch here at Motorbase, so rather than try to mount a half-hearted challenge on an impossible budget, we've decided to sit out the first half of the season and plan to come back with a vengeance in the second half

of the year when the budget allows us to make a serious bid for race wins.

This decision was a difficult one to take, made even more of a dilemma by the fact the Mountune-built EcoBoost engine for this season is showing some real promise! That said, it does mean we've got even more time to perfect the set-up and hit the ground running when we do return to the track later in the year.

In the meantime we've been busy doing a lot of testing and, alongside Mountune, have been doing a lot of work on the 2015 EcoBoost engine – and the first impressions are very good! Compared to last year's Duratec-based engine the new EcoBoost car showed promise in all the areas we had hoped for – most importantly getting drivability from the new motor. It's all very well having a powerful engine, but it's actually more about being able to use that power, and the way the power and

torque is delivered.

The old Duratec-based engine we ran last year was good, but the BTCC regulations meant we could never achieve the power in the right area. As a result our top speeds were good, but our acceleration wasn't as good as our rivals'.

That's why we spoke to Mountune about developing a new EcoBoost engine for 2015 – and the new powerplant gives a smooth power delivery all the way through the rev range. All of Mountune's years of expertise has clearly shone through in the development of this engine – it's awesome!

But it's not just companies like Mountune that team depends upon. We've had fantastic support from all of our technical partners, including Pro Alloy who have worked closely with the team and Mountune to

design and develop a complete cooling package as well as all the alloy tanks on the car. We've also had support from Samco and Hydraflow for all the necessary pipework and quick release fixings used throughout the car, Milltek for the complete exhaust

system, and DNA Filters for a complete airbox assembly.

We're very privileged to be able to tap in to experts in each field and bring them all together.

Now we just hope we will have the opportunity to put all that hard work to good use and get back out on the BTCC grid very soon. And with the recent announcement that Mat Jackson and James Cole will form a formidable driver line-up when we do, there's every chance we can still win some silverware this year!

**"WE CAN STILL WIN RACES THIS YEAR" MOTORBASE**

